



**BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

December 6, 2017

- A public hearing for the conditional use request for 1130 S. Braddock Avenue was held starting at 7:00 p.m.
 - 1. Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.
 - 2. Invocation – Pastor Eric Baldwin
 - 3. Pledge of Allegiance – Councilwoman Julie Grose
 - 4. Roll Call - P. Gionta – here, D. Petrarca – here, J. Grose – here, D. Swartzwelder – here, M. Busch – here, T. Ward – here, M. Stanton – here, D. Rapp – here
 - 5. Public Comment
 - a. Steven Visconti (7541 Ellesmere St.) – Mr. Visconti is having an issue with neighbors taking up multiple parking spots and leaving trash cans out all week along Bruce Way. The police and public works departments will investigate the issue and the possibility of placing a handicap spot in the alley.
 - b. Dario Donatelli (2011 Noble St.) – Mr. Donatelli is the president of Swissvale Cares, which operates a food pantry on Noble Street. He extended thanks to Council for their financial support. Mr. Donatelli provided an update on the growth and activities of the pantry this year. He asked Council to consider continuing and increasing its support in the coming year.
 - c. Nathan Shaulis (8000 Westmoreland Ave.) – Mr. Shaulis represented the Swissvale Community Action Committee to present a petition regarding the hiring of the next Swissvale Police Chief. SCAC collected feedback from community members on what they would like to see in this process including questions they would like to be asked of candidates. Mr. Shaulis shared several examples of this community feedback. He thanked the council for hearing from residents on this issue and hopes to continue to increase the two-way communication between the public and borough representatives in the future.
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- d. Shawn Wells (7454 Schoyer Ave.) – Ms. Wells thanked public works for making sure the leaves were collected on her street. Additionally, there was a water main break on Schoyer. She is concerned that now there is a big patch in the middle of the newly paved street. Mr. Bachy stated that the current patch is temporary and the Water Authority is responsible for providing a permanent fix to the road.
 - e. Mike Belmont – Mr. Belmont is a member and Vice President of the Woodland Hills School Board. He informed Council of the Community Forum on Violence taking place December 7, 2017 at the Rankin Promise School. He presented several highlights from the school board's 2018 budget. Transportation continues to be a major expense. The district is working with Carnegie Mellon University to find a long-term solution. The district is also partnering with Pittsburgh Public School District to coordinate student transportation. About 18% of the annual budget is lost to charter schools. Pension costs continue to increase. There is a renovation project planned for Dickson School.
 - i. P. Gionta asked if the renovations would increase taxes on residents. Mr. Belmont stated that the potential bond that would be obtained for the renovations is for 30 years and should not require raising taxes.
 - ii. T. Ward asked about ways the district is trying to change its image. The district is trying to get the word out that its schools are safe, its students have an abundance of educational options and its test scores are competitive with other districts. WHSD banners will be available shortly to be hung throughout the borough.
 - iii. Asst. Chief Watson brought up the issue of students criminal mischief when leaving the intermediate building. Mr. Belmont promised to speak with the superintendent about the matter and report back.
6. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes for the *Agenda Meeting* on October 25, 2017 and the *Regular Meeting* on November 1, 2017. Moved by D. Petrarca Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
7. Agenda Items:
- a. Motion to approve a proposed Conditional Use request to operate a Child Day Care Center at 1130 South Braddock Avenue. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.
 - b. Motion to transfer \$176,754.26 from the Sewer Fund to the General Fund to reimburse the General Fund for sewer related work completed by the Department of Public Works during 2017. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by T. Ward. All ayes, motion carries.
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- c. Motion to advertise 2018 council meeting dates. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - d. Motion to advertise the proposed 2018 borough budget for adoption on December 27, 2017. Moved by M. Busch, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
 - e. Motion to approve the advertisement of **Ordinance 17-08** revising the Borough's Sanitary Sewer Rate Structure to reflect ALCOSAN's increased rate of 7.5% for 2018 to charge \$15.99 per quarter plus an additional fee of \$7.43 for each 1,000 gallons of water usage for each meter in the Borough. Moved by J. Grose, Second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.
 - f. Motion to approve the advertisement of **Ordinance 17-09**, setting the tax rate for fiscal year 2018 for General Purposes at 8.0 mills. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by T. Ward. All ayes, motion carries.
 - g. Motion to ratify the hiring of Emma Brown as a Part Time Police Officer at the contractual rate of \$15.50 per hour. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - h. Motion to ratify the hiring of James Johe as a Part Time Police Officer at the contractual rate of \$15.50 per hour. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - i. Motion to ratify the hiring of Justin Klebba as a Part Time Police Officer at the contractual rate of \$15.50 per hour. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by J. Grose. All ayes, motion carries.
 - j. Motion to set the salary of Acting Chief of Police Ellis Watson at \$84,288.55 per annum effective November 2, 2017 to be paid during the period he holds that position. Moved by P. Gionta, Second by D. Petrarca. All ayes, motion carries.
 - k. Motion to approve **Resolution 17-16** authorizing the 2018 Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$600,000.00 from First Commonwealth Bank. Moved by M. Busch, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
8. Finance Report – Councilman Martin Busch
- Paid Bills as of **November 30, 2017** in the amount of **\$ 424,835.99**.
 - Unpaid Bills as of **November 30, 2017** in the amount of **\$ 26,172.07**.
 - Moved by M. Busch. Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.
9. Police Report – Councilwoman Patricia Gionta, Asst. Chief Watson
- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's office.
 - b. There was a burglary on St. Lawrence. A witness was able to give a good description of the actor and officers were able to apprehend the suspect.
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- c. There was a shooting on Ellesmere St. Gun violence has increased around the county. Asst. Chief Watson encourages residents to call 9-1-1 as soon as possible and provide any descriptions to dispatcher. Allegheny County Police are conducting the investigation.
- d. The police department is working on providing gifts for local kids through the Police Athletic League.
- e. The individual believed to be responsible for the homicide that occurred in Collingwood Park back in May was taken into custody by the US Marshals in Pittsburgh.

10. Code and Fire Report – Councilwoman Michele Stanton, Asst. Chief Deleonibus

- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's office.
- b. On Monday, a code enforcement officer spotted a sofa on a porch and left a tag to notify the resident to remove it. The resident called and informed code enforcement that he wasn't able to move it because of a physical disability. The fire fighters and public works coordinated to remove the sofa for the resident.
- c. There were two fires on Buena Vista Street in November. The fires were caused by workers renovating a steel fire escape using blow torches. The workers were cited after the second incident because they did not implement any of the precautions that the fire department had instructed them to after the first fire.
- d. The next Community CPR class is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on January 13th.
- e. The annual Christmas party hosted by the Swissvale Volunteer Fire Department is Saturday, December 9th.
- f. The PA Department of Labor and Industry audits the borough's enforcement of the Uniform Construction Code every five years and the Swissvale Fire Department received another "A" this year.

11. Public Works Report – Councilman David Petrarca, Mr. Greg Bachy

- a. Report is on file in the Borough Manager's office.
 - b. A large sink hole appeared on Church Street caused by a water main break. Public Works filled and temporarily patched the hole. The line has been fixed.
 - c. Leaf collection ends on Friday, December 8. Trucks will then be converted for snow removal. The department is prepared for snowy weather and has 300 tons of salt ready. It takes about 3 hours for crews to salt the entire borough.
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- d. Mr. Petrarca thanks the public works department for their excellent work this year.

12. Outstanding Complaints Report – None

13. C.O.G. Report – Councilman Tim Ward

- a. Meeting was cancelled, nothing to report.

14. President's Remarks – President Stanton

- a. Wishes everyone a happy holiday and safe travels.

15. Mayor's Report – Mayor Deneen Swartzwelder

- a. The mayor thanks everyone who participated in the Holiday Stroll and Night of Lights. She thanked public works for the beautiful tree, the fire department for allowing the public to use their space and Rotary for organizing the first ever Holiday Stroll. Night of Lights was very well attended with over 100 kids.
- b. The mayor asked Council to consider putting a line item in the budget to support the work of the Foster Farm Organization. This organization traps cats, fixes them, gets them shots and then either fosters them or releases them.

16. Water Authority Report – Tracey Crombie-Collins

- a. There were four water main breaks in November. Water main breaks will be repaired and permanent road repairs completed in the spring.
- b. There will be no rate increase for water in 2018.
- c. Residents can now pay on the Water Authority website by credit card.

17. Planning Commission – Mr. Greg Bachy

- a. A public hearing was held tonight for the Milestones Childcare Center. As the SALDO ordinances are now up to date there will be more hearings in the future.

18. Solicitor Report – Robert McTiernan

- a. No report
 - b. D. Petrarca – Question – Council received a memorandum on slot-machines/mini-casinos. These mini-casinos are limited to between 350 and 750 machines. Council must pass a resolution by the end of 2017 if
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they do not want to allow such mini-casinos within the borough.
Consensus of council was to take no action.

19. Engineer Report – Robert Zischkau

- a. The M48 Green Infrastructure Demonstration has been completed and seems to be functioning very well.
- b. The demolition contractor for 2622 Woodstock (LGAR home) has moved equipment in and is preparing to begin work. They are having difficulty getting clearance from Allegheny County Health Department to begin.
- c. The Collingwood Playground plan revisions have been completed and have been provided to Mr. Bachy. Mr. Bachy and Mr. Wilhelm are reviewing it before it is put out to bid.

20. Borough Manager Report – Clyde Wilhelm

- a. Representative Costa and Senator Costa were able to obtain a Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal grant in the amount of \$233,877 to cover the pedestrian crossing at Sanders and Phase 2B and Phase 3 of the Noble/Waverly Streetscape project.
 - b. Swissvale and Rankin boroughs met with representatives from PennDot about the Kenmawr Bridge. PennDot is moving forward with the project. Duquesne Light will be relocating power lines in the spring. The project should go to bid on June 1, 2018 and construction should begin in the fall.
 - c. The air quality tests came back for Hohman's Cleaners. Testing showed the facility air quality is satisfactory for occupancy. Mr. Wilhelm also met with a representative from the TCVCOG regarding the Land Bank's involvement with the property. Together they are working with Krohmaly's, who is interested in utilizing the property.
 - d. A quote to drop an electrical supply in the Noble Street parking lot was received for \$1,915. This cost can be added to the Capital Fund budget. Other future plans for the parking lot include centralized pay stations, a bio swall, trees and more. The area could be utilized as a central community events area.
 - e. The borough received two anonymous letters asking that the borough reconsider its relationship with Sable kennels, which has been cited for cruelty to animals as well as other charges and violations. Mr. Wilhelm will investigate other options.
 - f. A job description for a new Office Manager position in the administrative office was submitted to Council at last week's meeting. Mr. Wilhelm would like to advertise the position to begin interviewing in January.
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- g. Through working with the solicitor's office, the bills initially received from Jordan Tax Services, the borough's former delinquent tax collector, which totaled \$96,311 have been reduced to \$755 in revised invoices.

21. Unfinished Business

- a. None.

22. New Business

- a. T. Ward made a motion to increase the Fire Chief base salary to \$81,960.00 for 2018. Second by D. Petrarca.
 - i. Roll Call - P. Gionta – yes, D. Petrarca – yes, J. Grose – yes, M. Busch – yes, T. Ward – yes, M. Stanton – yes, D. Rapp – no

23. Motion to adjourn. Moved by D. Petrarca, Second by P. Gionta. All ayes, motion carries.

24. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

COMMEMORATION

Roy Noey, past Swissvale Department of Public Works employee

John "J.J." Jessell, past Swissvale Department of Public Works employee
